

### REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's comments and rejection of various of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicants gratefully note that at least Claims 4-7 are considered to be directed to allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in either independent form or made dependent from an allowable claim.

Furthermore, applicants note the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Carr, et al., ('290) or Laquer, et al. ('386), as detailed in the Office Action.

Accordingly, in order to clearly and unambiguously distinguish over the art and to place this application into substantial order for allowance, applicants have cancelled Claim 4 without prejudice or disclaimer, and incorporated the limitations thereof into Claim 1, while concurrently amending the claim to obviate the formal grounds of objection, as set forth in conjunction with Page 2, Paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

Concerning the foregoing, applicants have eliminated unnecessary verbiage pertaining to the internal components of the guided missile airframe and emphasized the patentable distinctions over the art with regard to the protective cap, which is connected to the leading end of the airframe, and wherein the novel and inventive integers, which have been incorporated into Claim 1 and which include the subject matter of Claim 4, are deemed to clearly place that particular claim, and any claims dependent therefrom, into order for allowance.

Furthermore, applicants note, with respect to the amended Claim 1, a first novel characteristic indicates that the interconnection is only form-fitting, while the parts of the protection cap still connected to each other by way of the connection means. As soon as the means for releasing the connection means is activated, the form-fitting interconnection is no longer applicable.

Furthermore, the additional features which have been introduced into Claim 1 are those of original Claim 4, which the Examiner indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter, and which emphasizes that by means of the opening, which is provided in the structure, a generation of dynamic pressure interiorly of the protective cap is feasible, whereby this dynamic pressure propagates the sideways removal or detachment of the parts of the protection cap, as soon as the means for releasing the connecting means are activated.

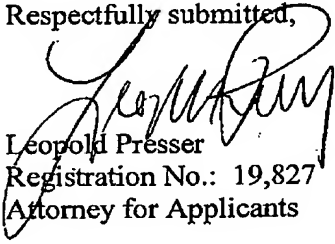
With regard to the prior art, which is cited primarily material pertinent to Claims 1-3, Carr, et al., '290, fails to disclose a form-fitting interlocking structure between a protective cap, indicated as the shroud sections 14 and 16, and the guided missile, in that instance, booster 12, analogous to that of the first inventive feature of the present invention.

Moreover, Carr, et al. also fails to provide any opening in the protection cap pursuant to the further features of Claim 4, which is now incorporated into Claim 1.

Similarly, Laquer, et al. '386, fails to disclose a form-fitting interlocking structure, but rather the parts of the cover 18 of the radome firmly fits to the radar housing 16, and must be removed by activating an explosive cord 30. Moreover, there is no provision of any opening in the cover 18 which could be deemed as being analogous to the opening set forth in the present claims and as described in connection with the invention.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, the application is now considered to be in condition for allowance, and the issuance of the Notice of Allowance by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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